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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/873,217	06/05/2001	Koichi Toyoda	040373/0304	4020
22428	7590	09/21/2005	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			VAN DOREN, BETH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3623	

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/873,217

Applicant(s)

TOYODA ET AL.

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date see cont. page.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

IDS Paper Nos/Mail Dates: 20040824, 20040129, 20010605

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a non-final, first office action on the merits. Claims 1-16 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 16 recites a recording medium with executable code. Examiner points out that a recording medium with non-executing program code is software per se, which is not statutory subject matter. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claim 16 is directed towards non-statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites "when a dispatchable temporary worker occurs in an organization". It is unclear as to how a worker would occur in an organization. Therefore, this limitation has been construed as --when a dispatchable temporary worker request occurs in an organization--. Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Arrowood (U.S. 2002/0010614).

7. As per claim 1, Arrowood teaches a temporary worker information management system comprising a network, a dispatching terminal connected to the network, a job offer terminal connected to the network, connected to the network, and a dispatching information server connected to the network,

said dispatching terminal comprising:

means for transmitting dispatchable temporary worker information representing the number of dispatchable temporary workers, a skill thereof, and a dispatchable period, which have been entered, to said dispatching information server when a dispatchable temporary worker request occurs in an organization (See paragraphs 0014, 0061, 0063-4, 0109-0115, wherein the employee information is stored in the system (i.e. skills, ratings, etc.) and the client transmits information concerning the need for temporary worker(s), including the number of workers, the skills of the workers, the duration, etc);

means for displaying job offer information representing the desired number of dispatched temporary workers, a desired skill thereof, and a desired dispatching period,

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transmitted from said dispatching information server (See figures 21-2, wherein the information is displayed);

said job offer terminal comprising:

means for transmitting job offer information representing the number of temporary workers desired to be dispatched, a skill thereof, and a desired dispatching period, which have been entered, to said dispatching information server when a request for a temporary worker occurs (See figures 21-22, paragraphs 0014, 0109-0115, wherein the request is transmitted over the network); and

means for displaying dispatchable temporary worker information transmitted from said dispatching information server (See figures 21-22, paragraphs 0014, 0109-0116, and 0121, wherein temporary worker information is displayed);

said dispatching information server comprising:

means for registering dispatchable temporary worker information transmitted from said dispatching terminal (See paragraphs 0014, 0064, 0067, 0110-5, wherein the worker information is registered and stored);

means for registering job offer information transmitted from said job offer terminal (See paragraphs 0061, 0063, 0112-0113, wherein the job offer information is registered with the system and stored);

means for searching job offer information registered therein when dispatchable temporary worker information is transmitted from said dispatching terminal, and, if there is job offer information that matches said dispatchable temporary worker information, transmitting said dispatchable temporary worker information to said job offer terminal

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which has registered the matching job offer information (See paragraphs 0014, 0016, 0110-2, wherein a search occurs using the databases of the system); and

means for searching dispatchable temporary worker information registered therein when job offer information is transmitted from said job offer terminal, and, if there is dispatchable temporary worker information that matches said job offer information, transmitting the matching dispatchable temporary worker information to said job offer terminal (See paragraphs 0014, 0016, 0110-2, wherein a search occurs using the databases of the system).

8. As per claim 2, Arrowood teaches said dispatching information server comprising means for authenticating the user based on the registered user information when said dispatching information server is logged in (See paragraphs 0066-0071, 0141-2, wherein the user is authenticated).

9. As per claim 4, Arrowood teaches wherein said dispatching terminal, said job offer terminal, and said dispatching information server are installed in a company or companies which cooperate with each other (See paragraphs 0014-5, 0049, 0067-70, 0099-0101, 0115-0116, 0119, wherein the terminals are installed in a company or companies that cooperates).

10. As per claim 5, Arrowood et al. teaches wherein said job offer terminal further comprises: means for transmitting an entered evaluation report on an evaluation of the skill of a dispatched temporary worker to said dispatching information server;

means for transmitting an entered dispatching contract evaluation information referring request to said dispatching information server (See paragraphs 0062-4, 0075-7, 0095, 0099-101, 0122, 0126, wherein evaluation information is entered and transmitted);

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means for displaying dispatching contract evaluation information transmitted from said dispatching information server (See figures 23-25, 27, 30-31, which displays evaluation information);

wherein said dispatching terminal further comprises:

means for transmitting an entered dispatching contract evaluation information referring request to said dispatching information server (See paragraphs 0062-4, 0075-7, 0095, 0099-101, 0122, 0126, wherein evaluation information is entered and transmitted);

means for displaying dispatching contract evaluation information transmitted from said dispatching information server (See figures 23-25, 27, 30-31, which displays evaluation information); and

wherein said dispatching information server further comprises:

means for generating dispatching contract evaluation information which reflects details of an evaluation report transmitted from said job offer terminal, registering the generated dispatching contract evaluation information therein, and transmitting the generated dispatching contract evaluation information to said dispatching terminal (See paragraphs 0062-4, 0075-7, 0095, 0099-101, 0122, 0126, wherein information is generated that details the evaluation reports. See also figures 23-25, 27, 30-31); and

means responsive to dispatching contract evaluation information referring requests transmitted from said dispatching terminal and said job offer terminal, for transmitting dispatching contract evaluation information registered in said dispatching information server to said dispatching terminal and said job offer terminal (See paragraphs 0062-4, 0075-7, 0095, 0099-101, 0122, 0126, wherein information is generated that details the evaluation reports. See also figures 23-25, 27, 30-31).

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11. As per claim 6, Arrowood teaches wherein said dispatching information server comprises means for registering user information of a user of the temporary worker information management system in advance, and authenticating the user based on the registered user information when said dispatching information server is logged in (See paragraphs 0064, 0066-0071, 0141-2, wherein the user is registered and authenticated).

12. Claims 7-8, 10-12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 recite equivalent limitations to claims 1-2, 4-6, 1, 1, 1, and 1, respectively, and therefore rejected using the same art and rationale as applied above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arrowood (U.S. 2002/0010614).

As per claims 3 and 9, Arrowood teaches each of a temporary worker dispatcher and a temporary worker recipient that are each members of an online system (See paragraphs 0014, 0066-0071, 0141-2). However, Arrowood does not expressly disclose that the members pay a fixed membership fee and a predetermined ratio of a dispatching cost to an administrator of this system.

Arrowood discloses a system by which a client (i.e. company needing a temporary employee) may request and search for a temporary employee, the temporary employee and the client both registered with the system. It is old and well known to require fee for

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service. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to charge both the client and the temporary employee for their user accounts maintained by the system as well as the services the system provides in order to more efficiently support the operations of the system and also provide an element of quality control as only serious users will utilize the system.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Thompson et al. (U.S. 6,675,151) teaches requesting a temporary employee and gaining a temporary employee utilizing records stored in a system.

Driscoll et al. (U.S. 2003/0177051) teaches a data management system that collects and tracks data concerning worker resources.

Dietz et al. (U.S. 6,408,337) teaches managing records via a computer system and a database that allow for the engagement of non-employee workers.

Kipling (U.S. 2002/0103687) discloses requesting contract workers from a network based service.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (571) 272-6737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

lwd

bvd

September 15, 2005

Susanna Diaz
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PRIMARY EXAMINER
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